



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: July 13, 2006

Contact: Charles Merritt, Vice President of External Relations, 303.299.3638

e-Mail: cmerritt@ecs.org

ECS Web site: www.ecs.org

NEWS

Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius to Chair Education Commission of the States

DENVER, CO – Kansas Governor **Kathleen Sebelius** has assumed the leadership as chairman of the Education Commission of the States. ECS is a national nonprofit organization that helps governors, legislators, state education officials and other leaders develop and carry out public policies that improve student learning from preschool through college.

Today Governor Sebelius takes over the chairmanship from Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee at the 2006 National Forum on Education Policy in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Sebelius and Huckabee were among Time Magazine's [*Five Best Governors in America*](#) in November 2005.

During her two-year chairmanship, Sebelius will focus on helping teachers stay in the profession and helping policymakers provide the resources needed to keep good teachers in schools. Her initiative, **Great Teachers for Tomorrow**, will focus on how policymakers and education practitioners can positively affect workplace conditions and create school environments that make teachers want to stay.

"If we're to be successful in communities across the country, as well as compete globally, we must work harder and smarter to keep good teachers in the classroom," Governor Sebelius said. "Working to keep quality teachers in schools is a priority, not just today but for the students and communities of tomorrow."

Sebelius currently serves as chair of the Education, Early Childhood and Workforce Committee of the National Governors' Association and as policy chair of the Democratic Governors Association. She has made improving public education a priority with the guiding principle that simply doing better just isn't good enough. This means investing in schools – from preschools to colleges – and ensuring schools are accountable with the taxpayers' money.

She will be part of a panel at the ECS National Forum on Thursday, July 13, from 8-9:30 a.m. with Governor Huckabee and former ECS Chairman and former Georgia Governor Roy Barnes for "A Conversation With Governors About The Challenges Of Education Reform." The session will discuss such topics as education reform efforts of the last 20 years, federal mandates for increased accountability and higher standards, and the need for a better educated citizenry to compete in the global economy. All of these topics have created a formidable challenge to states and governors in delivering quality education.

For more information about the National Forum and ECS, visit <http://www.ecs.org/>.

###

The Education Commission of the States (ECS) is a nationwide nonprofit organization created by the states, territories and the U.S. Congress that helps governors, legislators, state education officials and others identify, develop and implement public policies to improve student learning at all levels. A nonpartisan organization, ECS was formed in 1965 and is located in Denver, Colorado.

Helping State Leaders Shape Education Policy